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**U. S. GIVES MEDAL  
TO CITY OF VERDUN**

First Ever Presented by American Government to Any Community in World  
SACRED MEMORIES OF WAR  
By the Associated Press  
Verdun, June 5.—In the name of the American Congress and the American people, Myron T. Herrick, the American Ambassador, yesterday presented to the City of Verdun the first and only medal ever given by the United States Government to any community in the world.  
The Ambassador and Premier Poincaré together visited the ground where are buried many thousands of French whose valor the medal commemorates, and both spoke under the emotion aroused by the thought of the dead and the sight of the "red zone" so devastated that it may never be fit for human habitation.  
Mr. Herrick assured France of the deep friendship of the United States, which though it might not prevent disagreements and misunderstandings, would dissipate and survive them.  
"Verdun and valor are forever one and inseparable," said the Ambassador. "Here blazed the spirit of France."  
"And so this medal, which I give to this illustrious city, hallowed by the sacrifices and courage of all France, is a tribute from the whole United States to all of France."  
Poincaré Accepts Medal  
Premier Poincaré, accepting the medal in behalf of the French Government, made an impassioned speech, in which he spoke of what had been done by the American soldiers to help gain the victory, and defended France's position on the reparations and army issues.  
"Kindly permit the French Prime Minister to recall the fact that he is a citizen of Verdun, and that nothing could make me feel prouder of that title than the distinction bestowed upon this world-famed stronghold of Lorraine today," he declared. "Never have the President and the Congress of the United States of America conferred such an honor on any other city, and of all the decorations received by Verdun none will ever constitute a more honored feature of her immortal bearings than the medal you have just presented to her."  
"The tribute of admiration you bring from one hundred million human beings is paid to the undimmed bravery of France as a whole. It was the whole of France that defeated Verdun."  
Battled for Right and Freedom  
"Well we know, moreover, that the United States would never have bestowed such a striking proof of its regard and gratitude upon France had our countrymen's courage and self-devotion been displayed in a selfish, ignoble quarrel. If America has seen fit to honor Verdun it is because the battle and victory at Verdun were a battle and victory of right and freedom. It was to defend the same ideal that the American legions crossed the Atlantic and shed their blood on our devastated fields.  
"Never shall I forget the morrow of victory at St. Mihiel, when I spent two hours with General Pershing in my own village, upon which shells had just ceased to drop. A number of pitiful women were arriving from the communes to the north, seeking shelter. They begged me to present them to the gallant soldier, calling him their savior."  
"Such memories abide, Mr. Ambassador; nothing can obliterate them."  
The Premier then referred to the ties which so long bound the two nations together. Divergences of opinion were inevitable, but they were not incompatible with the continued existence of loyal understanding.  
"It is desirable when divergencies occur," he added, "that public opinion in the countries concerned does not grow restive, but remains its composure and patience, not allowing it to be supposed that a fleeting difference could shake an unshakable friendship."  
Denies Militaristic Designs  
"It has been attempted since peace was signed to foist upon America a legend which the common sense of your great people rejects more and more every day, of a militaristic France, an imperialistic France. Such is the slogan of her enemies. I am quite aware, that more denial is made by the French Government would not avail to put an end to this despicable campaign. The honest people whose judgment is disconcerted by it require something more than denials to be understood.  
"But we are entitled to request them before they condemn us to imagine themselves in the position of France—to recall the dangers to which we have been exposed and remember the sufferings we have endured. Then they will see why we are determined never to be subjected again to the same trials. Let them reflect that just compensation promised us has not been paid, and they will grasp the reason why we are maintaining the possibility of using force to uphold our just claims.  
"Would spare France from war? Assuredly, we are not keeping up armies for the vain purpose of engaging in spectacular displays or to strive after barren glory. It is no pleasure for us to divert the youth of our country for many months from productive labor, it is no pleasure for us to lay upon our countrymen the burden of military charges. Still less pleasure do we derive from the prospect of fighting, for we know too well the cost of battle, even for the conqueror. There is nothing we can better wish for than to be able to spare the French people forever from the dangers and sorrows of war.  
"It would be a different matter if we used, or appeared desirous of using, force to subvert, interfere, unreasonable claims, oppress nations, extend our territory and reject all peaceful settlements. Then the other nations would be entitled to judge France severely.  
Germany's Broken Promises  
"Is there the smallest indication we have ever cherished such designs? Haven't we paid, instead of her \$0,000,000,000 in damages in those unfortunate regions devastated by her, and which we have, up to the present, been obliged to reconstruct at our own expense?  
"You have, this very day, Mr. Ambassador, journeyed through the chaotic region that now surrounds Verdun and that goes by the name of 'Red Zone.' Its deserted villages can never be rebuilt, its shell-strewn fields henceforward will be stricken with eternal barrenness; even now belated explosions produce mortal accidents. But wherever land remained fit for the plow you have been able to see that it is under cultivation, that crops are beginning to grow.  
"The population is as brave and steadfast in peace as in war. Are they not entitled to get what was promised them by Germany in the presence of so many belligerent nations? What would become of the justice for which we fought shoulder to shoulder if the obligations undertaken in the face of such a population were not fulfilled?"

**BONWIT, TELLER & CO.**  
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